

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 06505 211204Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----212129Z 042433 /46

R 211120Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4117

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 6505

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, ENERG, IT
SUBJECT: THE LONDON SUMMIT - US NUCLEAR FUEL POLICY

1. DCM AND POLMIL COUNSELOR SAW MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS MONDELLO EVENING APRIL 20 ON ANOTHER SUBJECT BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY. MONDELLO REMARKED THAT THE ITALIANS WERE DEVELOPING THEIR POSITION ON THE LONDON SUMMIT FOR THE MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK. HE THEN TURNED TO THE SUBJECT OF US NUCLEAR FUEL POLICY GIVING US THE IMPRESSION THAT THIS MATTER WILL BE DISCUSSED IN NEXT WEEK'S PREPARATORY SESSION AND ULTIMATELY AT THE LONDON SUMMIT. MONDELLO SAID HE WISHED TO INFORM US THAT FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS WITH MFA EXPERTS, HE HAD MET WITH THE TOP PEOPLE IN ENEL, ENI AND CNEN WHO ARE ITALY'S PRINCIPAL CONSUMERS IN NUCLEAR FUEL. THESE PEOPLE UNANIMOUSLY OPPOSED THE US POLICY AGAINST USING PLUTONIUM AND BREEDER REACTORS. THE OBJECTIONS WERE THREE-FOLD:

(A) THE ITALIAN FEARED THAT THEY WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT HAVE AN ASSURED SUPPLY OF NUCLEAR FUEL;

(B) GIVEN THE SCARCITY OF URANIUM, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT NON-PRODUCING COUNTRIES (LIKE ITALY) USE IT AT THE
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MOST EFFICIENT LEVEL WHICH MEANS DEVELOPING BREEDER REACTORS, AND

(C) THE ITALIANS MIGHT LOSE OUT ON THE MARKET FOR ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY WHICH WILL HAVE TREMENDOUS COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE IF THE WORLD MOVES TOWARD INCREASED USE OF NUCLEAR BASED ELECTRICAL ENERGY GENERATION.

2. WHEN WE STRESSED THE SECURITY CONCERNS INHERENT IN THE US POSITION, MONDELLO STATED THAT THE ITALIANS QUITE UNDERSTOOD THIS AND RECOGNIZED THAT IT WAS A MOST SERIOUS MATTER. NOTWITHSTANDING THE ABOVE, THE ITALIANS ARE GREATLY CONCERNED ABOUT OUR POLICY. MONDELLO INDICATED THAT THE FORMAL GOI POSITION ON THIS MATTER HAD NOT BEEN DETERMINED, BUT WAS CLEARLY GIVING US ADVANCE WARNING THAT THE GOI WOULD PROBABLY OPPOSE THIS POLICY. GARDNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SUMMIT MEETINGS, NUCLEAR COOPERATION PROGRAMS, MEETING PROCEEDINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions:
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ISecure: 1
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TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, IT, US
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